

Date Mailed February 4, 1998

BEFORE THE

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

Investigation on the Commission's Own Motion Into the
Development of an Independent System Operator for the
Electric Transmission System of Wisconsin

05-BE-100

NOTICE OF PREHEARING CONFERENCE

Prehearing Date:	February 18, 1998, 10:00 a.m.
Prehearing Location:	Public Service Commission, 610 North Whitney Way, Madison, Wisconsin

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (Commission) continues its investigation into the development of an Independent System Operator (ISO) for the electric transmission system. To promote a competitive wholesale market and to maintain a high level of reliability, an ISO may be necessary to operate a statewide or regional transmission system.

On September 30, 1996, the Commission issued an order in this docket adopting general standards for an ISO. Those standards define the elements the Commission believed to be necessary at that time to ensure that operation of the transmission system by an ISO would separate the control and operation of transmission facilities from the ownership of generation facilities. On December 18, 1997, a prehearing conference was held to identify a preliminary list of issues for hearing and to schedule the hearing, including the deadlines for filing prepared written testimony.

On January 12, 1998, Northern States Power Company (NSP) perfected an exception it made in response to the hearing examiner's denial of its motion at the prehearing conference. The NSP motion sought to bifurcate this proceeding into two parts, first to focus on the ISO standards and later to focus on ISO proposals.

On February 3, 1998, the Commission affirmed the hearing examiner's ruling, thereby denying the NSP motion to bifurcate this proceeding. Thus, the hearing will address ISO standards and ISO proposals.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that the Commission will hold a prehearing conference on February 18, 1998, at 10:00 a.m., in the Amnicon Falls Hearing Room at the Public Service Commission Building, 610 North Whitney Way, Madison, Wisconsin. This building is accessible to people in wheelchairs through the Whitney Way main floor entrance (Lobby). Parking for people with disabilities is available on the south side of the building. Any person with a disability who needs accommodations should contact Richard Teslaw at (608) 267-9766.

The purposes of this prehearing conference are to summarize the meeting discussions of the collaborative group and to finalize the issue list that was initially developed at the first prehearing conference on December 18, 1997. Thirteen issues were identified at the first prehearing conference.

Full parties will be bound by the dates and the designation of issues and schedules adopted at the prehearing conference. Persons who consider themselves to be potential full parties should participate in the prehearing conference. Persons who desire to actively participate as full parties must request full party status in writing. Full party status requests should be addressed to Ms. Donna Paske, Hearing Examiner, Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, Examining Division, P.O. Box 7854, Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7854.

This is a Type III action under s. PSC 4.10(3), Wis. Adm. Code. No unusual circumstances suggesting the likelihood of significant environmental consequences have come to the Commission's attention. Neither an environmental impact statement under s. 1.11, Stats., nor an environmental assessment is required.

In addition, the environmental effects of increased transmission access are addressed in the Commission's Environmental Impact Statement issued in docket 05-EI-114, The Future of Wisconsin's Electric Power Industry (October 1995). If you have comments on the environmental aspects of this docket, send them to Bill Fannucchi, Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, P.O. Box 7854, Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7854, or call him at (608) 267-3594.

If there are questions regarding full party status requests or the prehearing scheduled in this notice, please contact Ms. Donna Paske, Hearing Examiner, at (608) 266-7173. Other questions about this matter may be directed to Dave Barger, Case Coordinator, Electric Division, at (608) 266-5576.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, _____

By the Commission:

Docket 05-BE-100

Lynda L. Dorr
Secretary to the Commission

LLD:DJB:sp:G:\Notice\Pending\05-BE-100 Prehearing Conf (2).doc